



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 28, 1996

Mr. Henry Flores
Webb County Clerk
P.O. Box 29
Laredo, Texas 78042-0029

OR96-0430

Dear Mr. Flores:

You have asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 39274.

The Webb County Court (the "court") received a request for the following information:

- (1) List of all judgment nisis and final bond forfeitures taken against bail bonding companies in Webb County, Texas for the last seven years.
- (2) The final bond forfeitures that have been executed and the amount owed by bail bonding companies for the last seven years.
- (3) Total amount collected by Webb County from these bail bonding companies for the last seven years.

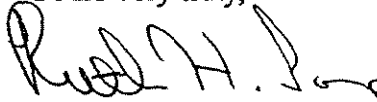
You assert that the information requested is contained in court records.

Chapter 552 does not apply to records of the judiciary. See Gov't Code § 552.003(B). Chapter 552 neither authorizes information held by the judiciary to be withheld nor requires it to be disclosed. Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974). Thus, the requested information is not subject to public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code.¹

¹We note, however, that Texas courts have recognized a common-law right of the public to copy and inspect records of the judiciary. See *Davenport v. Garcia*, 834 S.W. 2d 4, 24 (Tex. 1992). Attorney General Opinion DM-166 (1992) (historical perspective of right of public access to records of the

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Ruth H. Soucy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RHS/ch

Ref.: ID# 39274

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Jesus E. Cantu
705 O'Kane
Laredo, Texas 78041
(w/o enclosures)

(Footnote continued)

judiciary). Also, records held by county clerks are open to public inspection pursuant to other statutory law. Local Gov't Code § 191.006.